

*On a new Species of Balænoptera.* By Capt. C. M. SCAMMON, U.S.R.M.

BALÆNOPTERA, Gray,  
P. Z. S. 1847, p. 89, B. M. Cat. Cet. 1850, p. 31.

*Balænoptera Davidsoni*, Scammon, n. sp.

Above dull black; body, pectoral and caudal fins white below, with a white band across the upper surface of the pectorals near their bases. Gular folds seventy in number, the interspaces having a pinkish cast, though the more prominent portions are of a milky white. Head pointed; dorsal fin small, falcate, placed two thirds the length of the body from the end of the beak; pectorals small, narrow, placed one third of the animal's length from the anterior extremity. Genitalia opening below and slightly behind the anterior edge of the dorsal fin. Baleen pure white; laminae on each side 270 in number, the longest not exceeding 10 inches. Total length of animal 27 feet; pectorals 4 feet long, 13 inches wide; spiracles 3 feet 8 inches, pectorals 8 feet 6 inches, anterior edge of dorsal 15 feet 6 inches, and posterior edge of dorsal 18 feet behind the end of the beak; height of dorsal 10 inches; breadth of flukes, from point to point, 7 feet 6 inches, width of lobes of the same 25 inches; from the fork of the caudal fin to the anus 8 feet 4 inches, to opening of vagina 9½ feet; anterior end of snout to corner of mouth 4 feet 8 inches.

Distribution from Mexico to Behring Strait, on the west coast of America.

The specimen from which this description was taken was obtained in Admiralty Inlet, Washington Territory, October 1870. It was a female, and contained a fœtus five feet long—thus correcting the error of the whalers, who commonly regard this small species as the young of the “finback” of the coast. The skull has been deposited in the National Museum at Washington.

This species is evidently congeneric with the *Balænoptera rostrata* of the British-Museum Catalogue of 1850; and, while changes in nomenclature (more recent than those reported in the works of reference now accessible to me) may render it necessary to change the generic appellation at some future day, the one now used seems sufficient for purposes of description. In specific details, also, the present species is nearly allied to the *B. rostrata*, as far as descriptions will admit of instituting a comparison. I have dedicated the species to Prof. George Davidson, U. S. Coast Survey, and President of the Academy, as a testimony of respect for his scientific attainments, no less than as a personal token of appreciation of his efforts to assist in the advancement of the scientific interests of this coast.

A more detailed account of this animal and its habits, accompanied by illustrations, is reserved for a monograph on the Cetaceans of this coast, which I have long contemplated, and which is now on the point of publication.—*Proceedings of the Cal. Academy of Sciences*, Oct. 4, 1872.